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Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUDAPE 00831 091238 Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
---------- 016940
O 091209 Z APR 73 ZFF6
FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9408
INFO AMEMBASSY WARSAW IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SAIGON IMMEDIATE
WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA IMMDIATE
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUDAPEST 0831

EXDIS

. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, VS, PL, HU
SUBJECT: ICCS: POLISH AND HUNGARIAN OBSTRUCTIONISM

REF: STATE 064299

1. I MET WITH ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER FRIGYES PUJA (FOREIGN MINISTER PETER IS IN JAPAN) AT 1100 THIS MORNING TO PROTEST THE ROLE OF THE HUNGARIAN GOVERNMENT' S REPRESENTATIVES IN THE ICCS. PUJA WAS ACCOMPANIED BY DIRECTOR OF AMERICAN AFFIARS, AMBASSADOR VARKONYI, AND INTERPRETER. EMBASSY OFFICER ACCOMPANIED ME.

2. I MADE ALL THE POINTS IN STATE 059897. I ADDED THAT WE HAD HEARD OF RECENT DOWING OF TWO ICCS HELICOPTERS

BY THE VIET CONG, RESULTING IN THE LOSS OF LIFE INCLUDING HUNGARIAN LIVES. I OMITTED THE SPECIFIC EXAMPLES OF FAILURES OF THE HUNGARIANS AND POLES TO AVOID INVESTIGATIONS GIVEN IN THE NOTE TO AMBASSADOR SZABO BUT REFERRED TO THEM AND SAID OTHER EXAMPLES COULD BE ADDED.

3. PUJA AND VARKONYI TOOK COPIOUS NOTES. WHEN I FINISHED PUJA SAID THAT AMBASSADOR SZABO HAD SENT THE RUSH
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PROTEST TO BUDAPEST. HE ACKNOWLEDGED MINE, AND SAID IT WOULD BE FOR-
WARDED TO THE HUNGARIAN GOVERNMENT. PUJA STATED THAT SINCE THERE WERE SUCH SERIOUS ACCUSATIONS IN THE PROTEST THEY WOULD HAVE TO BE STUDIED BY THE GOH. HE SAID HE WOULD LIMIT HIMSELF TO SOME UNOFFICIAL REMARKS AT THIS TIME.

4. HE SAID HE WAS SURPRISED AT OUR CHARGES, SINCE AT THE VERY BEGINNING IT WAS THE USG, THE DRV AND PRG WHICH HAD ASKED THE HUNGARIANS TO UNDERTAKE THEIR ROLE IN THE ICCS AND SINCE THE GOH HAD TRIED TO FULFILL THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT , PUJA SAID HE WAS SURE OTHER HUNGARIAN LEADERS HAD THESE SENTIMENTS CONVEYED TO ME.

5. PUJA SAID THAT WHILE OUR FACTS AND FIGURES CAME UNDOUBTEDLY FROM THE SAIGON REGIME THE HUNGARIANS WERE VERY " UNDEFINITE" (MEANING SCEPTICAL) REGARDING SUCH FACTS; THEY ALSO HAD FACTS AND FIGURES FROM ANOTHER SIDE WHICH SHOW A DIFFERENT PICTURE.

6. PUJA SAID A THIRD UNOFFICIAL REMARK HE WHSHED TO MAKE WAS SURPRISE AT OUR LINKING THE HUNGARIAN ROLE IN ICCS WITH OUR BILATERAL QUESTIONS.

7. LAST BUT NOT LEAST PUJA SAID THE GOVERNMENT OF HUNGARY WOULD STUDY OUR CHARGES AND COME UP WITH A REPLY.

8. CONCERNING THE DOWNING OF THE HELICOPTERS, PUJA THANKED ME FOR MY SYMPATHY AT THE LOSS OF LIFE. HE SAID THE HUNGARIANS WERE STILL TRYING TO FIND OUT WHY THE HELICOPTERS WERE 25 KILO-METERS OUTSIDE OF THE FLIGHT PATH.

9. CONCERNING THE PARALYSIS OF THE ICCS PUJA SAID THAT THE GOH FEELS THE CANADIANS ARE GUILTY OF HOLDING BACK EFFECTIVE OPERATIONS OF THE ICCS. HE POINTED TO A CABLE WHICH HE SAID THE GOH HAD JUST RECEIVED, REPORTING THAT 3 OF THE 4 MEMBERS OF THE ICCS HAD AGREED TO INVESTIGATE AN ALLEGED VIOLATION BUT WERE PREVENTED FROM DOING SO BY THE CANADIAN MEMBER. HE SAID HE WAS SURE THERE WERE OTHER CASES IN WHICH THERE WAS CANADIAN OBSTRUCTIONISM. PUJA ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT HE DID NOT WISH TO DRAMATIZE THIS, SINCE THE ICCS IS RELATIVELY YOUNG . PUJA STATED HIS BELIEF THAT CASES OF VIOLATION WOULD DEFINITELY DECREASE.
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10. I NOTED THAT WE WOULD AWAIT THE REPLY OF THE GOH. ADDRESSING MYSELF TO PUJA' S CHARGE THAT OUR FACTS AND FIGURES CAME FROM THE SAIGON AUTHORITIES, I SAID I BELIEVED THEY WERE FROM THE ICCS ITSELF, RATHER THAN THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH VIETNAM. I SAID I WAS NOT AWARE OF THE ALLEGED CANADIAN OBSTRUCTIONISM CITED BY HIM BUT IF THIS REFERRED TO AN ALLEGED VIOLATION BY THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT I WOULD NOT DENY THAT THERE WERE PROBABLY VIO- LATIONS ON BOTH SIDES. WHAT WE WERE ASKING FOR WAS A MORE EVEN- HANDED TREATMENT IN INVESTIGATING THE VIOLATIONS. AS FOR THE DOWNING OF THE HELICOPTERS, I SAID I HAD ONLY SO FAR RADIO REPORTS BUT IN ANY EVENT, I WOULD WONDER WHAT MOTI- VATION AND EARTHLY PURPOSE COULD BE SERVED BY SHOOTING DOWN CLEARLY- MARKED ICCS HELICOPTERS EVEN ASSUMING THEY HAD STRAYED FROM THE FLIGHT PATH.

1. FINALLY, I SAID THAT THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS MATTER IS BROUGHT HOME AT THIS PARTICULAR TIME WHEN WE HAVE EVIDENCE OF THE NORMALIZATION OF OUR RELATIONS EVERY DAY. WE HAVE, I NOTED, AT THIS TIME A LIVESTOCK MISSION HERE IN HUNGARY AND ARE EXPECTING SOME NINE SENATORS STUDYING EAST- WEST TRADE ON APRIL 26.
PUHAN

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